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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
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RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 000386

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FOR EUR/SCE - SEIJI SHIRATORI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNMIK](#) [PGOV](#) [YI](#) [EU](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: JAPAN WILL NEED TIME TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO

REF: STATE 013716

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This message contains an action request. Please see paragraph 3.

[1](#)2. (C) Japan will need time to review the text of Kosovo's declaration of independence before it can recognize Kosovo, Deputy Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae told the DCM February 13 in response to reftel demarche. To speed this process, Japanese officials would need to see a draft declaration and a draft constitution in advance. Knowledge of how other countries will react would also be helpful, added Sasae, especially European countries. After the meeting, an official from the International Legal Affairs Bureau told the DCM that a Cabinet decision is required for recognizing Kosovo, which could take "more than two weeks."

[1](#)3. (U) ACTION REQUEST: Please provide a draft declaration and/or constitution, if available. Please also provide updates on whether and when other countries intend to recognize Kosovo.  
SCHIEFFER